Mountain Weather Forecast

Lake District National Park

Forecast valid from 00:00 on Thursday 04 Feb 2021 until 23:59 on Friday 05 Feb 2021

Forecast Issued on Wednesday 03 Feb 2021 at 16:30

Confidence: High for generally unsettled conditions and for turning colder over the weekend but lower with regard to rain/snow mix through the coming days.

Headline for Thursday 04 Feb 2021: Cloudy with occasionally heavy snow and blizzard conditions possible, turning to rain at lower elevations.

Mountain weather hazards on Thursday 04 Feb 2021

Blizzards
High Likelihood

Heavy Snow
High Likelihood

Storm force winds
No Likelihood

Gales
Low Likelihood

Severe chill effect
Medium Likelihood

Poor visibility
High Likelihood

Thunderstorms
No Likelihood

Heavy persistent rain
Low Likelihood

Strong sunlight
No Likelihood

Weather and chance of precipitation at 800m							
Time							
00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00
Light snow	Light snow	Heavy snow	Heavy snow	Light snow	Light snow	Light snow	Light snow
Precipitation probability							
50%	70%	90%	90%	80%	80%	60%	60%

Forecast for Thursday 04 Feb 2021

Weather: Cloudy with outbreaks of snow, these becoming more persistent and occasionally heavy through the morning. During the afternoon the snow is expected to become a little lighter and increasingly, below about 750m, turning to rain. Strong winds will bring blizzard conditions at times along with drifting snow and a severe chill effect.

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance throughout.

Visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450m, lifting closer to 600-750m during the evening especially in the west. Away from cloud visibility generally around a few kilometres in snow and, later at lower levels, rain, falling to less than a kilometre in heavy snow and near zero in blizzards and drifting snow, especially over higher fells.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
(C) Crown Copyright 2021. All Rights Reserved

Mountain Weather Forecast

Forecast for Thursday 04 Feb 2021

Height (m)	Wind Speed mean/gusts (mph)					Wind Direction (blowing from)			
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	29/36 E	33/41 E	34/41 E	27/34 E	24/30 SE	25/31 SE	25/31 SE	25/31 SE	22/28 SE
600	23/31 E	24/33 E	26/35 E	23/31 E	19/26 SE	19/26 SE	20/27 SE	20/28 SE	18/26 SE
300	11/24 E	11/26 E	12/26 E	11/23 E	9/20 SE	8/20 SE	8/19 SE	8/20 SE	7/17 SE
Valley	12/26 E	14/30 E	15/30 E	13/27 E	11/22 E	9/21 SE	10/20 SE	10/21 SE	9/19 SE

Height (m)	Temperature / Feels Like (°C)								
	00:00	03:00	06:00	09:00	12:00	15:00	18:00	21:00	00:00
900	-3/-11	-2/-12	-2/-11	-2/-10	-1/-8	-0/-8	0/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8
600	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	-1/-8	0/-6	1/-5	1/-5	1/-5	1/-5
300	1/-3	1/-4	1/-4	1/-3	2/-1	3/-0	3/-0	3/-0	3/-0
Valley	3/-1	3/-2	3/-2	3/-1	4/1	5/2	5/2	5/2	5/2
Freezing Level*	400m	500m	500m	600m	800m	900m	1000m	800m	800m

**Level above which ground is expected to be frozen/snow is expected to settle.*

Meteorologist's View

Gusts around 50mph over higher ridges and summits at first.

Forecast for Friday 05 Feb 2021

Weather: Continuing cloudy with further outbreaks of rain, sleet and snow, the snow mainly above 750m but generally lighter and patchier than Thursday. Some drifting of snow likely over higher fells along with a significant chill effect.

Maximum wind: Easterly or southeasterly gradually backing northeasterly 15-20mph

Chance of cloud free mountain/hill tops above 800m: Little chance through much of the day, perhaps 25% at times in the west.

Visibility: Periods or persistent cloud above 450-600m, becoming periods above 750m at times in the west. Away from cloud visibility good falling to just a few kilometres in rain and snow and perhaps less than a kilometre in blowing or drifting snow over higher fells.

Temperature: **Valleys:** Around plus 2 or 3 Celsius at dawn rising to plus 5 Celsius by day.
At 800m: Around plus 1 Celsius
Freezing level: Around 900m.

Check our weather forecast every day to get the most accurate and up to date information
http://www.metoffice.gov.uk/public/weather/mountain-forecast
(C) Crown Copyright 2021. All Rights Reserved

Mountain Weather Forecast

Ground Conditions Supplement

Date: Wednesday 3 February 2021. Location: c100m from Helvellyn summit at 11:55. Full report: We are continuing to provide the Fell Top Reports for people undertaking their daily local exercise during the lockdown. We would like to remind everyone that Government guidance stipulates that people should only exercise locally, not leaving the village, town or city where they live. It's groundhog day with a repetition of Tuesday's caveat! For those undertaking their local exercise on Thursday, unfortunately this report is probably already out of date as I write it since it was still snowing (raining in the valleys) as I left the hill and yet again Cumbria is currently under another Met Office Yellow warning for snow until 6pm on Thursday. Therefore please expect, and be prepared to encounter, more snow than experienced and described on Wednesday. The following report, though, will give you an idea of what ground any fresh snow will be covering. Fresh snow has settled above c300m deposited on predominantly E winds adding to existing accumulations. The precipitation was falling as rain below c300m. As usual, the depth of the snow that's fallen over the past 48 hours varies considerably from little on windswept areas to drifts of up to 60cm at 900m in sheltered spots and hollows and on predominantly W facing aspects with a very approximate average being around 8cm at 900m . The consistency of the recent snow also varies from mainly wet below 500m to soft powder above this altitude. Above 700m, especially on E and N facing aspects, there is old, hard snow above which the fresh snow, deposited on E winds, was failing to settle. That was the situation where observation was possible, however owing to extremely poor visibility it was not possible to inspect Helvellyn's main E face where there is a possibility that an unstable layer of snow could be building on it and other such slopes. A particular hazard on paths, especially on flatter sections or where they cross drainage lines, is fresh snow covering patches of ice. This was also a problem above 700m on popular routes where old compacted snow and ice was hidden. On windswept areas, especially above 800m, large areas of ground were covered by ice. On Monday, small cracks were observed in some of the cornices that exist above N and E facing slopes. Again owing to poor visibility, it was not possible to safely inspect them today but please keep well clear of such edges and advise those with less experience to do likewise.Upland tarns, such as Red Tarn, have frozen and may now be hidden under fresh snow. This combined with slightly milder temperatures makes them extremely dangerous to walk on. Full winter clothing (waterproofs, extra warm layers, hat & gloves), mountain boots and equipment are all essential for anyone going out onto the fells. Goggles are highly recommended given the amount of fresh snow and spindrift being blown about. For those venturing above the snowline, an ice axe and crampons are essential. This is the case even on the so called "easy" routes owing to the amount of ice and hard snow (especially above 750m) making the going treacherous without the proper equipment even on relatively flat ground. The fell top assessor turned back today c100m before the summit owing to lack of visibility and the inability to clearly see the edges of steep drops; hence excellent navigational skills are required when deep snow obscuring landmarks is combined with low cloud especially when snow/spindrift is being blown about and obliterating your upward footprints – you can't simply turn around and follow your footprints back down. There is the potential for walkers out on Thursday to encounter deep fresh snow, trudging through which saps energy; so please be conservative with your plans and know both your limits and also when to turn back. A pandemic is not the time to be pushing your comfort zone. Temperature: minus 1.7 C, Maximum wind speed 17.9 mph, Wind chill: minus 9.1 C, Average wind speed: 11.3 mph

Issued at: 1630 on Wed 03 Feb 2021

(C) Crown Copyright 2021. All Rights Reserved